

Team Member's Names: Jenny and Delaney
School: Mount Vernon Middle School, Mount Vernon, IA
Teacher: Mrs. Searce

Proposal:

1. The name and/or description of your chosen ice feature

Our feature's name is Don Juan Pond and it is a hypersaline pond with no fish (only hardy bacteria.) The description on Lima says- "A shallow saline pond located south of the Dais in the South Fork of Wright Valley, Victoria Land. The pond was sighted on Oct. 11, 1961 in a field reconnaissance by U.S. Navy helicopter. In the next three months, a USARP party with George H. Meyer and others made several trips to study the pond. They named it Don Juan Pond for Lieutenants Donald Roe and John Hickey, U.S. Navy Air Development Squadron Six, who were of assistance to the field party. A new mineral, calcium chloride hexahydrate, was discovered in the pond. The name Antarcticite was proposed for the new mineral."

2. An image of your chosen ice feature



3. The location of your selected feature in terms of its longitude and latitude as well as the region of Antarctica in which it exists. (Teams are encouraged to include a map of Antarctica with a mark pinpointing the location of their selected feature).

6.A paragraph asserting why you and your team should be funded to further investigate this area of Antarctica. (In other words, what are the potential benefits of exploring this feature?)

This feature should be funded for further exploration because there are not many ponds in Antarctica that are not frozen, and scientists should find out why. Perhaps there are areas like this extreme environment on other planets like Mars. Also the rocks around DJP may have little endolithic bacteria and microbes in them that would be interesting to study. The environment in Antarctica is so harsh that life has found a way to exist inside rocks in order to escape the extremes. That may be another clue to finding life on other planets.